

22 November 1988

NOTE FOR: DCI - DDCI

FROM: EA/DCI - EA/DDCI

SUBJECT: Late Items for State Meeting Today

TAB 1 Pakistan: Forming a New Government. The Secretary may ask for your views on the prospects for forming a new government in Pakistan. DI analysts believe that although neither of the two major Pakistani parties won a majority in the National Assembly election, Bhutto probably can put together a coalition majority and President Ishaq Khan is likely to ask her to form a government when the Assembly convenes on 5 December. We also expect the military will go along with this. Attached are talking points that expand on these issues.

TAB 2 Pakistan: Reaction to Nuclear Demarche. The Secretary may also ask you how Pakistan may react to a US demarche on Pakistan's nuclear program. DI analysts are convinced a US demarche will not dissuade Pakistan from actively pursuing its nuclear weapons program. Pakistani leaders believe that nuclear weapons are necessary as a deterrent to possible Indian aggression and that possible damage to US/Pakistan relations is an acceptable cost for this deterrent. Attached are talking points that expand on these issues.

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[REDACTED] 25X1**Talking Points for the DCI**

22 November 1988

Pakistan: Forming the Government

Although neither Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party nor the Pakistan Muslim League-led alliance won a majority in the 16 November National Assembly election, Bhutto appears able to put together a coalition majority and Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is most likely to ask her to form a government when the Assembly convenes on 5 December.

- Bhutto is at least close to the 119 seats required for a majority. She can count on the 93 seats she controls, at least half of the 30 seats reserved for religious minorities and women, and 10 seats won by pro-Bhutto minor party candidates. US diplomatic reports suggest that Bhutto can probably also secure the 13 seats won by the Muhajir Quami Movement if she is willing to make concessions to Sind Province's Muhajir minority.
- Bhutto's main opposition, the Pakistan Muslim League-led alliance, can count on only the 55 seats it won, plus 15 independents.
- The Muslim League's poor showing will make it difficult for Ishaq to credibly argue that its candidate, who will almost certainly be Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, could win a vote of confidence.
- Army Chief of Staff Beg has suggested the parties form a national unity government. He probably is hoping through such tactics to encourage the formation of a Muslim League led government. Beg does not, however, appear prepared to use coercion to prevent Bhutto from becoming prime minister. [REDACTED]

We believe Beg would consent to Bhutto as prime minister, especially if she agrees to Ishaq continuing as president.

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- Bhutto has told US diplomats she distrusts Ishaq but would support his election if the Army insists. She has courted the generals, telling them she will not touch the Army budget, challenge Army policies on Afghanistan, or slow Pakistan's nuclear weapons development program.
- The generals likely believe Ishaq would counterbalance Bhutto. The Constitution gives the president, in consultation with the prime minister, the power to appoint the cabinet, provincial governors, and the judiciary while the prime minister controls legislation and the budget process. [REDACTED]

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